United Nations A/73/222

General Assembly

Distr.: General
July 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 137 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (most recently, A/72/167).

The Office serves as a global gateway for public-private partnerships to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It oversees the areas set out below.

The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. At the end of 2017, the cumulative allocations as approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects to be implemented by the United Nations system had reached approximately $1.47 billion. Of this amount, it is estimated that $0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds contributed by Ted Turner and $1.02 billion (about 69 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. The total number of United Nations projects and programmes supported up to the end of 2017 by the Foundation through UNFIP stood at 641, implemented by 48 United Nations entities in 128 countries.

The United Nations Democracy Fund was established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization around the world. It focuses on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office has channelled over $160 million to nearly 750 projects in more than 130 countries, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and young people to media programmes that enable civil society to project its voice.

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The Office also provides partnership advisory and outreach services in response to demand from the United Nations system, Governments and non-State actors. It provides advice to and engages with a wide spectrum of partners to guide them and facilitate partnership events and initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his report on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/684-E/2018/7), the Secretary-General announced that the United Nations Office for Partnerships would be firmly established as the Organization's global gateway for partnerships. In 2018, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General initiated a review of the current operations of the United Nations Office for Partnerships to inform a reinvigorated platform for more effective partner engagement of public and private sector stakeholders, including civil society organizations, with the United Nations development system.

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I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

1. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) is a United Nations trust fund established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system in support of high-impact projects implemented throughout the world by agencies of the United Nations system. Its work is overseen by the UNFIP Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.

2. The United Nations Foundation was founded 20 years ago by an entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ted Turner, as a public charity in the United States of America to channel Mr. Turner's historic $1 billion gift to support United Nations causes and activities.

3. As at 31 December 2017, the cumulative allocations approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects had reached approximately $1.47 billion, of which $0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds from Mr. Turner and $1.02 billion (about 69 per cent) represents co-financing from other partners. Since the Foundation's inception, 641 projects have been implemented or are under implementation by 48 United Nations entities in 128 countries. In 2017, the Foundation disbursed funding for projects totalling $26.1 million, the majority ($21 million) focused on global health. The selection of projects and initiatives supported by the Foundation through UNFIP is highlighted herein. The Foundation also provides other forms of support, particularly in the areas of advocacy and communications, as described below.

4. The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, as established in 1998, has been renewed twice, most recently in 2014, when the partnership was renewed for an additional 10-year period under a revised and restated relationship agreement, as noted previously (see A/70/202). The Joint Coordination Committee, established under the new agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination between the United Nations and the Foundation. In 2017, as in previous years, the Committee met formally twice.

Support for innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives

5. The Foundation works in close collaboration with the United Nations to foster innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The present report is organized according to the long-standing programmatic priorities of the Foundation, which have expanded to encompass issues aligned with and supportive of the Organization's evolving priorities. In November 2016, in anticipation of the shift to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and with the then impending leadership transition at the United Nations, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved a strategy focused on five strategic priorities that reflect ways in which the Foundation could best support the United Nations:

(a) Investing in United Nations leadership;

(b) Accelerating action on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change;

(c) Mobilizing diverse constituencies for change;

(d) Nurturing support for the United Nations in the United States;

(e) Cultivating innovative thought, relationships and opportunities towards the advancement of the priorities of the United Nations.

6. To advance these priorities, the Foundation relies on the following range of tools to support the United Nations:

(a) **Channelling.** The Foundation continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders to mobilize and channel financial resources to the United Nations system through UNFIP;

(b) **Convening.** The Foundation collaborates with various United Nations entities to bring stakeholders together and foster dialogue on a range of issues, including in the lead-up to important milestone events, such as Global Goals Week during the opening of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(c) **Communicating.** The Foundation utilizes a diverse set of communications tools to build public support for the United Nations, give wider visibility to and improve understanding of issues high on the Organization's agenda, reach new constituencies, and galvanize action, including during key moments for the Organization. This work is carried out in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information and other communications experts from across the United Nations system;

(d) **Championing.** The Foundation champions the work of the United Nations through global and United States-based advocacy initiatives that connect citizens to the United Nations. The Foundation helps to foster a common understanding of the mission and values of the United Nations and ensure strong and sustained support by the Government of the United States for the United Nations;

(e) **Collaborating.** The Foundation is an institutional home for a number of multi-stakeholder initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Family Planning 2020, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Data2X and the Digital Impact Alliance.

A. Global health

7. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked in close collaboration with UNFIP, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations entities to address key global health priorities, including the elimination of preventable diseases such as poliomyelitis, measles, rubella and malaria. The Foundation has also engaged in advocacy and partner mobilization for the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents, including through the Every Woman, Every Child initiative. More recently, the Foundation has supported the work of United Nations partners on systemic and integrated issues for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including universal health coverage and antimicrobial resistance. The following sections provide an overview of global health grant-making through UNFIP in 2017.

Measles and rubella

8. Established in 2001, the Measles and Rubella Initiative is a global partnership committed to reducing measles deaths and limiting the number of children born with congenital rubella syndrome. It is jointly led by WHO, UNICEF, the American Red

Cross, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Foundation. The aim of the Initiative is to advance the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012–2020 by helping countries to increase vaccination coverage for measles, rubella and other preventable diseases; fund, plan, implement and monitor high-quality supplementary campaigns; strengthen routine immunization efforts; investigate outbreaks; and provide technical and financial support for effective disease surveillance and outbreak response.

9. The role of the Foundation in connection with the Measles and Rubella Initiative is to carry out advocacy, mobilize resources and provide fiduciary services. Through its Shot@Life campaign, for example, the Foundation engages with civil society, policymakers and partners to reduce vaccine-preventable childhood deaths, in support of the efforts of UNICEF and WHO. The campaign is also intended to educate, connect with and empower the public in the United States to champion vaccines and advocate government funding for measles and rubella initiatives.

10. According to WHO, in 2016, for the first time, global measles deaths fell to below 100,000 per year, an 84 per cent decline in deaths since 2000. While this represents great progress, more work is needed to reach the nearly 21 million children around the world who have yet to be vaccinated against measles. The Measles and Rubella Initiative is committed to continuing its work with all countries and partners to reach every last child.

11. In 2017, more than $18 million was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF and WHO in support of measles and rubella initiatives and activities around the world. Specifically, $10 million was provided to UNICEF and WHO as part of a five-year GAVI Alliance grant to enable countries experiencing measles or rubella outbreaks to respond rapidly while the outbreaks are still relatively small and localized, with a view to preventing them from developing into large and widespread outbreaks.

12. The Foundation also provided a grant of $9,235,398 through UNFIP to UNICEF and WHO in support of the implementation of the latest phase of the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012–2020, to enable WHO to undertake high-quality supplementary immunization activities, strengthen immunization systems and implement case-based surveillance systems for measles in all six WHO regions.

Poliomyelitis

13. The Foundation has been a long-standing supporter of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a public-private partnership led by five core partners: the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International, UNICEF, WHO and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. At the time of its inception in 1988, polio was endemic in more than 125 countries and paralysed 350,000 children every year. Since then, the Initiative has overseen a 99 per cent reduction in annual cases of wild poliovirus. Today, wild poliovirus transmission remains endemic in only three countries and the world is closer than ever to being polio-free. The Foundation supports the Initiative through global and United States-focused advocacy, communications and public outreach and the provision of grants to United Nations partners.

14. The work of the Foundation on polio is guided by the annual strategy and workplan of the Initiative's Polio Advocacy and Communication Team. In addition to providing funding, the Foundation offers targeted support to advance elements of the Initiative's high-level advocacy goals and resource mobilization and communications strategies to ensure that the Initiative's partners have the tools they need to interrupt wild poliovirus transmission. In 2017, the Foundation provided a grant through

UNFIP to WHO to support the Initiative's advocacy, resource mobilization and communications efforts.

15. Similarly to the Measles and Rubella Initiative, the Foundation leverages the Shot@Life campaign to educate and empower the United States public to champion vaccines and government funding for polio eradication initiatives. In 2017, a grant of $1,155,343 was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF to support polio eradication initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the purchase of 11 million doses of oral polio vaccines. Although major progress against polio has been made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has not reported a case of wild poliovirus since 2011, the country is still considered at substantial risk owing to poor subnational surveillance, immunization gaps and population movements. To ensure that the country stays polio-free, it is essential to maintain the momentum and reach every child.

16. In 2017, the Foundation continued its multi-year partnership on Shot@Life with Walgreens, a leading pharmacy chain in the United States, to raise awareness and help to provide vaccines to children in developing countries through a campaign. From September 2016 to August 2017, for every vaccine administered in the United States at Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacies, an amount equivalent to the price of one vaccine was donated to the Shot@Life campaign. Since its inception in 2013, the campaign has helped to provide over 20 million life-saving vaccines.

Malaria

17. Since 2004, the Foundation has engaged with the United Nations and other partners to facilitate the distribution of bednets and combat the spread of malaria. For more than a decade, Nothing But Nets, a global grass-roots campaign run by the Foundation, has raised awareness and funding to combat malaria. The campaign enables individuals to join the fight against malaria by making a donation or engaging in advocacy with policymakers in relation to increased United States investment in malaria interventions.

18. Nothing But Nets works primarily with UNICEF and UNHCR to purchase insecticide-treated bednets and distribute them to affected countries in Africa. The resources raised also support a range of other malaria prevention and treatment solutions.

19. In 2017, the Foundation provided a parallel in-kind donation of 700,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to UNICEF and UNHCR and grant support to fund bednet delivery, education, awareness-raising and gap analysis. For example, the Foundation provided a grant of $42,051 through UNFIP to UNHCR and a parallel in-kind donation of 99,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to support 198,000 beneficiaries in sub-Saharan Africa.

B. Women, girls and population

20. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked with various United Nations partners, including UNFPA, UN-Women, UNICEF and UNHCR, to promote issues that are central to the 2030 Agenda, such as gender equality, maternal health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender-based violence. The support provided by the Foundation has included grant-making, communications work, partnership-building and advocacy. The projects and initiatives supported by the Foundation through UNFIP in 2017 are summarized below.

Adolescent girls

21. In September 2010, in response to calls by the United Nations and other actors for intensified efforts to address the needs and rights of adolescent girls, the Foundation launched Girl Up, an advocacy and fundraising campaign that engages with adolescent girls across the United States and around the world to improve the lives of other adolescent girls. The objective of Girl Up is to engage, train and inspire girls to be leaders and create change for equality. Girl Up girls raise funds for United Nations partners, carry out advocacy work on policy issues that affect adolescent girls and raise awareness of the challenges facing girls around the world. Since its launch, the campaign has inspired more than 2,400 Girl Up clubs in 102 countries, in which members build their leadership skills and work to achieve gender equality for girls around the world.

22. In 2017, through corporate partners and the girls' fundraising efforts, the Foundation provided a grant of $250,000 through UNFIP to continue its support for the UNFPA Action for Adolescent Girls initiative in Guatemala. This initiative seeks to protect adolescent girls' rights, in particular by delaying the age at which they marry and bear children, empowering the most marginalized girls and elevating their status in their communities.

Family planning

23. In 2017, in partnership with Merck for Mothers, the Foundation provided a grant of $445,990 through UNFIP to UNFPA for the second phase of a project being implemented in the Philippines called Business Action for Family Planning Access, which aims to broaden private sector support for the promotion of women's health and access to family planning services in the workplace. The three main objectives of the project are expanding actionable commitments from companies in the Philippines to support and promote women's health and provide access to family planning information and services through workplace programmes; strengthening implementation through technical assistance and gathering evidence from the private sector on women's health and family planning as a basis for strengthening new and existing investments; and communicating the evidence base from successful women's health programmes in the workplace.

C. Energy and climate

24. For the past 20 years, the Foundation has worked closely with the United Nations to advance progress towards a safer, cleaner, more equitable and climate-friendly energy future. The Foundation is currently focusing its efforts on accelerating progress towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, while continuing to support the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched by the Secretary-General in 2011 and now an international not-for-profit organization.

25. In 2017, the Foundation continued to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement in a number of areas, including support for subnational climate action to contribute to the targets contained in the Agreement and support for the Organization's leadership role on the issue of climate change. The Foundation supports three initiatives that seek to advance the energy access agenda in support of Sustainable Energy for All, namely Powering Healthcare, the Energy Access Practitioner Network and the Clean Energy Mini-grids Partnership.

Powering Healthcare

26. In 2013, at the request of the leadership of Sustainable Energy for All, the Foundation launched an initiative to promote innovative clean energy solutions for health-care facilities in developing countries, as a way of improving the availability and quality of health-care services, in particular for women and children. The Foundation initiated a pilot project in partnership with WHO and the Governments of Ghana and Uganda that uses innovative solar photovoltaic technology to bring power to 62 under-electrified primary health-care facilities in both countries. The pilot project, which was made possible thanks to the support of the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, under its Sustainable Energy for Women and Girls programme, demonstrates how access to modern, affordable and sustainable electricity services can enhance the delivery of health-care services and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. WHO, as a key partner of the Foundation on the project, is carrying out an independent study to determine the impact of improved access to power on the quality of health-care services. The Foundation is providing a three-year grant of $500,000, covering the period 2016–2018, to WHO through UNFIP to support its work on the study.

D. Capacity development

27. In addition to providing financial support in its historic programmatic areas, the Foundation has sought to invest in United Nations leadership and support other priority areas that can have a transformative and catalytic impact. In 2017, the Foundation provided direct and indirect support to the United Nations system to address time-sensitive and high-impact initiatives, as detailed below.

Transition support

28. In 2017, the Foundation provided $330,844 through UNFIP to support the transition team established by the Secretary-General designate to help him prepare prior to and immediately following the assumption of his duties on 1 January 2017. Specifically, the funding allowed the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and UNHCR to offset travel, daily subsistence allowance and salary costs for advisers appointed by the Secretary-General designate to support the transition process for a period of six months.

Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

29. The Foundation provided two grants to support the work of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in 2017. First, with support from the Nielsen Foundation, it provided a grant of $56,500 through UNFIP to support Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals, an annual class of young change-makers appointed to leverage their unique resources, networks and skills to advocate the Goals among young people, and Measuring the State of Youth in the Sustainable Development Goals, an initiative that seeks to highlight the status of young people, the progress made to date and areas of urgent need in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Foundation also provided a $55,000 grant through UNFIP to the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to support its general operations.

Instant Network Schools Programme

30. With funding support from the Vodafone Americas Foundation, the United Nations Foundation provided UNHCR with a grant of $1,040,699 through UNFIP in support of the Instant Network Schools programme. The programme was set up to

deliver education programmes for children in refugee camps by facilitating access to the Internet and technology.

Additional grants

31. In addition, the Foundation, with support from partners, provided a further $481,619 in grants through UNFIP to various United Nations entities for a range of projects in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

E. Fiduciary agreements

32. Over the years, a number of United Nations entities have requested the assistance of the Foundation as a fiduciary or fiscal agent to receive and disburse contributions from corporations and private individuals in support of their specific campaigns and programmes. Many agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations lack a functioning United States-based charitable organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, thereby making it difficult for them to compete for tax-deductible contributions from United States companies or companies with affiliates in that country, as well as from United States citizens. As a United States public charity and fiscal agent for receiving and disbursing such contributions through UNFIP, the Foundation is well suited to assist the United Nations in that regard.

33. In 2017, the Foundation, through UNFIP, provided a total of $569,101 in funding to five United Nations entities through fiduciary channels. Specifically, $14,440 was provided to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; $36,553 was provided to the Global Partnership to Stop Tuberculosis managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services; $43,806 was provided to the Office of Legal Affairs to enhance the training activities of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law; $51,088 was provided to the Central Emergency Response Fund of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; $201,851 was provided to the country-based pooled funds managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; and $221,363 was provided to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of eliminating poverty in the world through communication, public outreach and fundraising.

F. Advocacy and communications

34. In 2017, the Foundation continued to deploy, test and develop a range of innovative advocacy and communications tools to build diverse and robust constituencies for the Sustainable Development Goals, climate action and broader United Nations leadership, both globally and within the United States. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information and other United Nations entities, the Foundation helped to provide media zones for the Sustainable Development Goals during the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and sessions of the General Assembly; organized training courses for journalists in 19 countries to improve reporting on the Goals; ran innovative digital media campaigns; and supported several public-facing events and initiatives to broaden the base of support for the work of the United Nations, including the Social Good Summit and the Global Moms Challenge.

Eighth annual Social Good Summit

35. The Social Good Summit is an annual convening of prominent thought leaders, media executives, technology experts, grass-roots activists and global citizens from around the world to explore technology's potential to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The eighth Summit, the theme of which was "Future in Focus: #2030NOW", was held on 17 September 2017 and hosted in collaboration with UNDP, Mashable and 92Y. During the Summit, speakers from 21 countries addressed various issues related to the Goals. Some 1,200 people attended, while the livestream of the Summit received over 60,000 unique views, representing 185 countries. The Summit also generated 2.1 billion social media impressions.

Global Moms Challenge

36. The Global Moms Challenge is an advocacy initiative created by the Foundation in 2011 to support the health and well-being of mothers and children and to advance global health priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative connects mothers throughout the United States and the world to educate and mobilize partners to take action, with a view to increasing access to life-saving medicine, vital nutrition, education and opportunities to empower women and lift up communities. This community of almost 250,000 mothers and supporters operates in support of the Every Woman, Every Child initiative. The initiative includes the Moms +SocialGood annual event and the Global Moms Relay, a digital media campaign to amplify the conversation about the challenges faced by mothers.

37. In 2017, through funds raised by the Global Moms Relay, the Foundation, with the support of Johnson & Johnson, provided UNFPA with a grant of $99,997 through UNFIP to address the vulnerability of adolescent girls and women in rural parts of Haiti by providing them with access to skilled health-care services, education, counselling and supplies for newborn babies. The project targeted over 8,000 women and girls living in the areas most affected by Hurricane Matthew.

G. Multi-stakeholder alliances

38. The Foundation serves as an institutional home for several independent multi-stakeholder initiatives that accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. These include:

(a) **Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves**. The Alliance is a public-private initiative hosted by the Foundation to raise awareness and stimulate market demand and support for clean cooking solutions that improve health and livelihoods, empower women and protect the environment. Launched in 2010, the Alliance works in close collaboration with WHO, UNDP, UNHCR, UN-Women, the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations entities to promote the universal adoption of clean cooking solutions by enhancing demand for clean cookstoves and fuels, improving the supply of clean cookstoves and fuels, and fostering an enabling policy environment in which clean cooking businesses can thrive.

(b) **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data**. The Partnership is a global network of over 320 partners, including Governments, businesses, civil society, international organizations, academia, foundations and statistics agencies that are committed to ensuring that the international community has the data needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. To do this, the Partnership advocates the role of data in driving sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels; facilitates collaboration across all sectors to innovate, build capacity and share knowledge; improves data access and interoperability mechanisms and standards; and

works with in-country partners to create and implement robust data ecosystems. Since November 2015, the Foundation has served as the institutional home for the secretariat of the Partnership. The Deputy Secretary-General is the honorary Chair of the Partnership's Board of Directors.

(c) **Data2X**. An initiative of the United Nations Foundation, Data2X is a collaborative technical and advocacy platform dedicated to improving the quality, availability and use of gender data to make a practical difference to the lives of women and girls worldwide. It receives support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and works with United Nations agencies, Governments, civil society, academics and the private sector to close gender data gaps, promote expanded and unbiased gender data collection, and use gender data to improve policies, strategies and decision-making. In 2017, through the work of Data2X, the United Nations Foundation, with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, provided $340,000 through UNFIP to the International Labour Organization to improve the well-being of workers and reduce inequalities in the workplace through better labour market policies. A project on statistics on women's work and employment and time use has been initiated, in partnership with the World Bank, to provide guidance on how best to capture all forms of women's work in national statistics by testing various methods through different household surveys.

(d) **Digital Impact Alliance**. Launched in 2016, the Alliance is a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Foundation, the aim of which is to overcome the barriers to using digital solutions in support of global development. The Alliance works closely with United Nations partners, Governments, industry and civil society to pursue three major areas of impact: expediting the deployment of digital technology; expanding the availability of digital distribution channels; and ensuring responsible and widespread access to and use of data for development. In 2017, the Foundation and the Alliance, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, provided a grant of $411,950 through UNFIP to support the efforts of the International Telecommunication Union to catalyse digital innovations that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The project aims to support appropriate, affordable and scalable solutions through cross-sectoral collaboration among Governments, the private sector, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and other development organizations.

(e) **Family Planning 2020**. Family Planning 2020 is a global community of partners working with Governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, the private sector and the research and development community to advance rights-based family planning. The partnership was launched at the London Summit on Family Planning, in 2012, with the goal of enabling 120 million additional women and girls in the world's poorest countries to use voluntary, modern forms of contraception by 2020. The partnership now has more than 125 commitment-makers that work together to address the policy, financing, delivery and sociocultural barriers to women's access to contraceptive information, services and supplies, and in doing so, make progress on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights by 2030. The United Nations Foundation serves as the host of Family Planning 2020, which is stewarded by a secretariat and co-chaired by UNFPA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Family Planning 2020 also comprises a reference group and four core partners, which are the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNFPA, the United States Agency for International Development and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom. The focal points in each country are key partners for driving forward progress on family planning goals. Below is an

overview of the grants awarded in 2017 through UNFIP under the umbrella of Family Planning 2020.

Strengthening national ownership and financial support for family planning in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

39. The Foundation, in partnership with the National Philanthropic Trust, provided a grant of $75,000 through UNFIP to UNFPA to support the holding of the first National Conference on Family Planning by the Ministry of Health of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in May 2017, under the theme "Investing in family planning for prosperity". The aim of the Conference was to help the Government to fulfil its pledge to reduce the national maternal mortality ratio by increasing the use of modern contraceptive methods from 42 per cent to 65 per cent by 2020.

Strengthening access to and use of family planning and reproductive health services in Minawao refugee camp in Cameroon

40. In 2017, the Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies jointly provided $142,560 through UNFIP to UNFPA to amplify the existing family planning programme at Minawao refugee camp, in northern Cameroon, and address neonatal and maternal deaths.

Increasing access to and use of modern contraceptives by unmarried young migrant workers in industrial zones of Viet Nam

41. The Foundation provided a grant of $120,000 through UNFIP to UNFPA to improve access to and utilization of family planning information, counselling and high-quality, modern contraceptive services for 125,000 unmarried young migrant workers in industrial zones of Viet Nam.

Advancing progestin subdermal implant provision through civil society in the Philippines

42. The Foundation provided a grant of $208,440 through UNFIP to UNFPA to help with the demand for modern family planning services and to improve universal access to high-quality reproductive health-care services for 40,000 women of reproductive age in the Philippines who choose to use progestin subdermal implants.

II. United Nations Democracy Fund

43. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established during the 2005 World Summit as a United Nations general trust fund and launched in April 2006. Since then, the grant-making body has become clearly defined as a fund for civil society organizations. It is the only United Nations entity that has the word "democracy" in its name, the only United Nations body with the primary purpose of supporting democracy by empowering civil society and one of the youngest entities in the United Nations system. The large majority of project funds go to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting the "demand" rather than the "supply" side of democratization, the Fund plays a distinct and unique role in complementing and enhancing the more traditional work of the United Nations — the work with Governments — to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

44. In the years since its creation, the Fund has experienced considerable growth in its portfolio, its donor base, its impact and its visibility. The aim of its projects is to strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the

participation of all groups in democratic processes. In its first 11 rounds of funding, the Fund supported almost 750 projects in more than 130 countries, with a total disbursement of some $160 million. The projects ranged from supporting civil society efforts for accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening good governance and the rule of law.

A. Eleventh round of funding

45. The call for project proposals for the Fund's eleventh round was open from 20 November to 20 December 2016. The Fund received 3,002 project proposals from civil society, reflecting the continued high demand for support from the Fund to finance projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The proposals originated from organizations in 152 countries, the vast majority of them local non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

46. The response added to the considerable growth that the Fund has experienced since its creation in 2005, with initiatives that reflect a focus on strengthening the voice of civil society, thereby increasing concentration on the demand side of democracy, rather than on the supply side.

47. In the eleventh round, 48 projects were funded at a total cost of $8,657,000. As defined by their key activities, the projects are disaggregated as follows:

(a) Youth engagement (16 per cent);

(b) Rule of law and human rights (18 per cent);

(c) Community activism (6 per cent);

(d) Strengthening interaction with Governments (23 per cent);

(e) Media and freedom of information (6 per cent);

(f) Empowerment of women (27 per cent);

(g) Tools for knowledge (4 per cent).

B. Donor base

48. The cumulative total amount of contributions received from 2005 to 2016 exceeded $186 million.

C. Evaluation

49. A revised post-project evaluation strategy was approved by the Fund's Advisory Board in November 2016. The revised strategy is designed to make better use of local and regional expertise and to ensure that the lessons learned from evaluations are embedded in the Fund's own capacity. The majority of the evaluations were positive, while also providing valuable lessons learned for the Fund's knowledge management. Lessons learned from evaluations have been made available on an interactive searchable platform (www.undeflessonslearned.org), launched in May 2017. The platform allows civil society organizations and other interested stakeholders to draw on the wealth of knowledge that the Fund has gained from its 12 years of implementing projects. The Fund also published all post-project evaluations on its

public website, as decided by its Advisory Board. In that way, the Fund consolidated its position as one of the most transparent entities within the United Nations system.

D. Governance

50. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund, the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group, continued to play an active and guiding role during 2017. The Advisory Board provided policy guidance for the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines, considered proposals for funding, and recommended funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General. The Board comprises those Member States that have made the largest seven cumulative financial contributions to the Fund over the previous three years; six Member States reflecting geographical diversity; two international civil society organizations; and three individuals serving in a personal capacity.

51. The Programme Consultative Group provided input and quality control in the project selection process and the implementation phase, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNHCR, UNDP and UN-Women. The Fund also benefits from the advice and support of resident coordinators in the field, who provide input into the project selection process and help with the monitoring of project implementation.

E. Twelfth round of funding

52. The Fund launched its twelfth round of calls for project proposals in November 2017. When applications closed, on 20 December 2017, the Fund had received 2,429 proposals, the vast majority of applications from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the annual timetable adhered to by the Fund, the applications were assessed by March 2017 and the Advisory Board recommended a shortlist in May, after which the Fund advised the permanent missions of those Member States in which listed projects were to take place. The shortlist was then submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Short-listed applicants were to be asked to submit draft project documents by the middle of 2018 to be negotiated with the Fund. The first tranches of project funding are to be disbursed from September, once again in a timeline that compares favourably with international standards.

F. Democracy in action

53. Examples of the Fund's projects are the following:

(a) **Support for the civic participation of vulnerable young people in Côte d'Ivoire**. The aim of this project is to enable vulnerable young people to participate in political processes by creating a citizen consultation framework and a curriculum for human rights education. Using a participatory approach, project activities include leadership and advocacy training. Participants also have the opportunity to create their own projects so they can use the skills they have learned to advocate the adoption and implementation of policies for vulnerable children and young people.

(b) **Engaging men and boys in preventing violence against women and girls to build a democratic society in Afghanistan**. The project worked with young men to overcome attitudes that make violence against women acceptable. The project

identified youth leaders, who then created and ran their own awareness campaign sessions for other men and boys. As a result of their participation in the project, the young men have become resources in their own villages who can carry out advocacy for women's rights. They now have a much better understanding and awareness of the causes of violence against women and how to achieve gender equality.

(c) **Online platform for citizen participation in Quito, Ecuador**. The project aimed to enhance community engagement through the creation of platforms where citizens could build solidarity in their communities and promote active civic participation. The online platform serves as a knowledge-sharing space for civil society and citizens in Quito to foster dialogue. They are encouraged to exchange skills and knowledge by offering or requesting training courses. In addition to training citizens to use the platform, the project worked with local agencies to increase dialogue, promote voluntary action and enhance social and cultural cohesion among members of the community.

III. Partnership advisory and outreach services

54. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an immense opportunity for all stakeholders to work collaboratively across sectors and thematic areas, forging genuine partnerships towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The scale and ambition of the Goals make them unattainable without robust partnerships. Achieving the level and quality of partnerships required to deliver the Goals requires a significant and targeted effort to build an enabling environment for partnering, including institutional capacities, convening and supporting infrastructure and a supportive policy environment.

55. As reflected in Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, ensuring a sustainable future requires cross-sectoral collaboration and meaningful partnerships on an unprecedented scale. It is key that competitive advantages and resources, including knowledge, science, technology and finance, are utilized to create synergies and find innovative solutions. Governments, the private sector, civil society and the United Nations need to work together in broader and deeper partnerships to harness the full potential of each sector and make the best of their respective capabilities and resources.

56. Building on existing partnership efforts, the United Nations is uniquely placed to offer the platforms needed for all actors to come together, build trust and mobilize their respective assets to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. In 2017, numerous companies, foundations and civil society organizations approached the United Nations Office for Partnerships to seek advice and explore paths of engagement with the United Nations. Most enquiries were related to mapping specific collaborative opportunities and identifying relevant partners within the United Nations system towards the advancement of the Goals. To highlight the outstanding work carried out by non-State actors committed to achieving the Goals and inspire new partnership initiatives, the Office convened, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, several briefings and events. Selected key partnership events are listed below.

Women's Empowerment Principles

58. On 15 March 2017, UN-Women, the United Nations Global Compact, the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships held the Women's Empowerment Principles Forum, the theme of which

was "Measuring success, making it count: business investing in women and girls". The event, held in New York, brought together more than 400 cross-sector leaders and innovators, as well as representatives of the United Nations system and civil society. The Forum explored the role of the private sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with a special focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Knowledge Summit

59. On 11 May 2017, the Permanent Mission of Argentina, the International Council for Small Business and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Knowledge Summit at Headquarters. The event emphasized the role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises as catalysts for advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their potential to make a long-lasting positive impact on global development needs. Furthermore, the event drew attention to General Assembly resolution 71/279, designating 27 June as Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day.

2017 Partnership Exchange

60. On the occasion of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the second annual Partnership Exchange event on 17 July 2017 at Headquarters. Under the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", the three main objectives of the event were to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, to provide a learning platform for multi-stakeholder partnership commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and to share knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the Goals. The event brought together almost 500 participants representing multi-stakeholder partnerships, Governments, the United Nations and other stakeholders.

Media for Social Impact Summit 2017

61. Organized by the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the PVBLIC Foundation, the Media for Social Impact Summit was held on 14 September 2017 at Headquarters. The event brought together over 450 leaders of media companies, advertising firms, creative agencies, communication experts and senior United Nations representatives to highlight the power of media in driving social change. The summit showcased innovative social campaigns through keynote speeches, interviews, case studies and round-table discussions, providing a unique opportunity to build partnerships to further social progress and increase momentum towards global action on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Youth-led peacebuilding: lessons from the field

62. The Permanent Mission of Jordan, the not-for-profit organization Generations for Peace and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened an event entitled "Youth-led peacebuilding: lessons from the field" on 21 September 2017 at Headquarters. The event provided an engagement platform for practitioners and partners with a shared interest in youth-led peacebuilding and showcased good practices in engaging youth and supporting youth-led peacebuilding. Specifically, the event focused on youth leadership, community empowerment, tolerance and responsible citizenship to create and sustain peaceful communities.

IV. Conclusions

63. Mr. Turner's unprecedented philanthropic contribution through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has contributed significantly to an increased mobilization of resources and multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

64. The United Nations Democracy Fund is now 13 years old and has proved to be a highly innovative and effective initiative. It has successfully complemented the work of many United Nations agencies that concentrate on the "supply" side of democratic institutions by focusing on the "demand" side through grants to local civil society organizations.

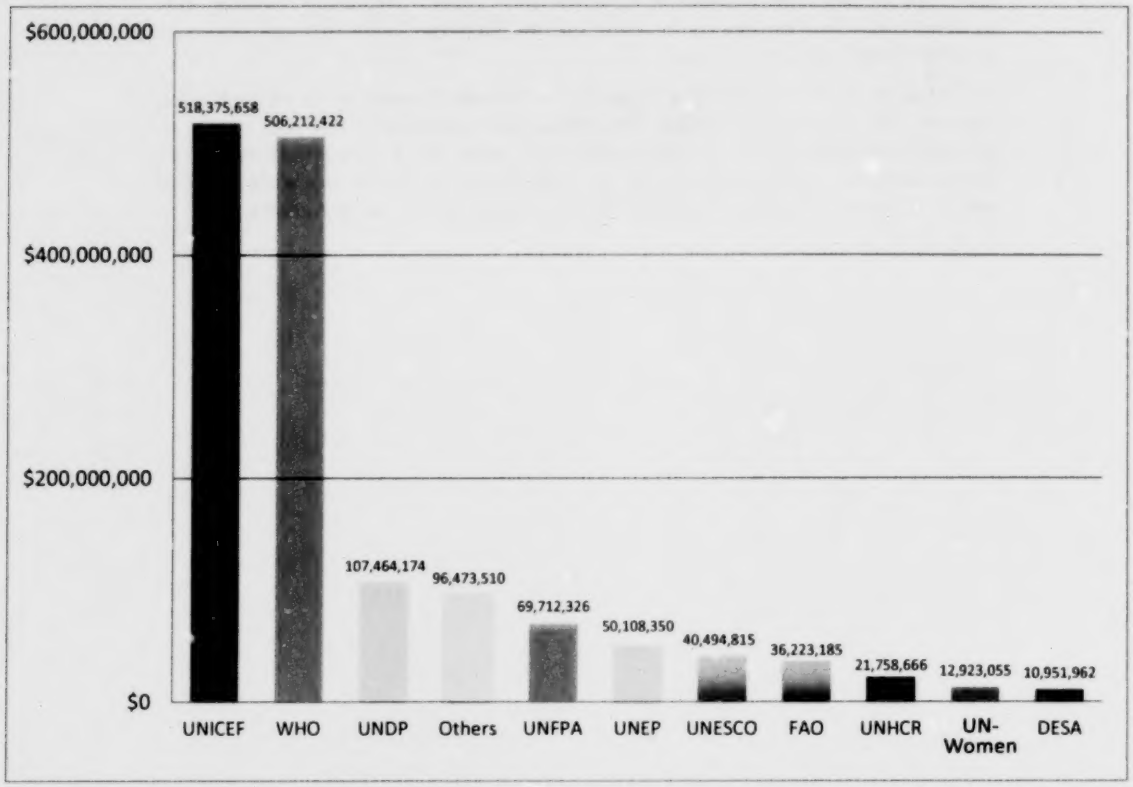
65. The operation of UNFIP and the Fund remains the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office has continued to convene events to increase awareness and mobilize action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and provide advisory services to a wide range of non-State actors that share a commitment to realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Annex I

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects

A. Cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998–2017, distributed by implementing partners

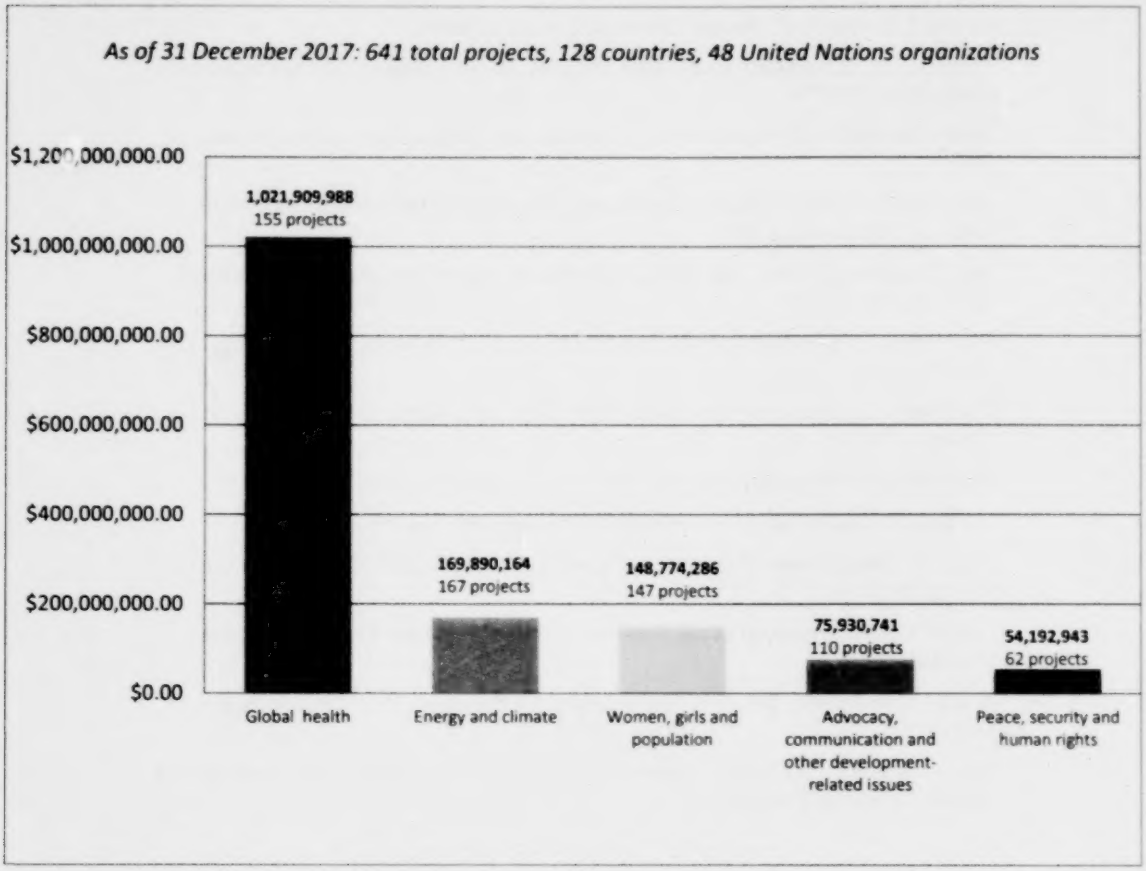
(United States dollars)



Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

B. Thematic distribution of projects approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998–2017

($1,470,698,122)



Annex II

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships 2017

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General (Chair)

Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, President of the Economic and Social Council (until 26 July 2017)

Marie Chatardová, President of the Economic and Social Council (since 27 July 2017)

Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (until 11 September 2017)

Sven Jürgenson, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (since 12 September 2017)

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (until 31 July 2017)

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (since 1 August 2017)

Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management (until 31 May 2017)

Jan Beagle, Under-Secretary-General for Management (since 1 June 2017)

Susan M. Davis, former President and Chief Executive Officer, BRAC USA (until 9 May 2017)

Luis A. Ubiñas, President of the Board of Trustees, Pan American Development Foundation

Bruce Usher, Faculty Director, Social Enterprise Program, Columbia Business School

William Kennedy (ex officio), Senior Programme Officer, Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Annex III

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 31 December 2017

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Algeria	100 000
Argentina	30 000
Australia	9 212 424
Bulgaria	10 000
Canada	754 935
Chile	380 000
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czechia	216 939
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	20 006 910
Hungary	75 000
India	31 912 543
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	658 724
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 180 000
Latvia	15 000
Libya	15 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Malta	11 347
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	5 000
Panama	37 000
Peru	90 849
Poland	858 755
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 100 000
Romania	472 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovakia	34 217

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Slovenia	127 924
Spain	5 043 311
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	21 299 050
Turkey	290 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	683 653
United States of America	63 076 000
Other	2 230
Total	**185 204 375**

Annex IV

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2017

Member States

Algeria
Australia
Barbados
Colombia
Germany
India
Japan
Nigeria
Poland
Slovakia
Sri Lanka
Sweden
United States of America

Non-governmental organizations

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
TECHO

Individuals

Aracelly Santana
Jeffrey Wright